

Sponsoring Your Child to Live in Australia

This fact sheet is for people who are living in Australia as a permanent resident or citizen and would like to bring their child to join them in Australia by applying for a Child Visa. If you are sponsoring your partner (spouse, de facto partner or fiancé(e)) at the same time, please refer to RACS Fact Sheet “Sponsoring your Partner to live in Australia”.

Who can sponsor?

If you are over 18 and an Australian permanent resident or citizen, you can sponsor your child or your partner’s child in limited circumstances.

Which children can I sponsor?

For a Child Visa, you can sponsor a child who is a “Dependent Child”. A Dependent Child is:

- A child under 18 years old; or
- A child over 18 and under 25 years old who is:
 - financially dependent on you more than any other person.
 - not engaged, and not have a spouse or de facto partner or have ever had a spouse or de facto partner
 - not be working full time
 - studying full time and be able to show that they have been studying full time since turning 18 or within six months of completing high school; or
- A child over 18 years old who is incapacitated for work because of a physical or mental disability.

A dependent child must be your biological child. To be a parent sponsor you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. If your child is adopted or a step-child, you should seek legal advice as to whether they are eligible.

At the time of your application, the child must be under 25 years, unless they are incapacitated for work.

At the time of decision children may age out of their bracket above, but those who were 18-24 when they applied must continue to show they meet the dependency criteria, and those aged 25 or over must continue to show incapacity.

What types of Child Visas are there?

If Your Child Is In Australia

If your child is in Australia, they can apply for a subclass 802 onshore child visa. They must be in Australia at time of visa application and grant. This will allow your child to remain in Australia indefinitely. They can work and study, access Medicare and sponsor relatives to come to Australia. If eligible, they will be able to apply for Australian citizenship.

If Your Child Is Outside Australia

If your child is outside Australia, they can apply for a subclass 101 offshore child visa. They must be outside Australia at time of visa application and may be in or outside Australia at time of visa grant. This

will allow your child to come to Australia and stay indefinitely, with the same benefits as the onshore child visa.

If you wish to sponsor a child who was adopted after you became an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen, you may be eligible to sponsor them for a subclass 102 Adoption visa. RACS does not advise on these.

How do I apply for a Child Visa?

To apply for a child visa you will need to provide a number of documents:

- Identity documents for your child;
- Travel documents for your child;
- 4 recent passport-size colour photos of your child;
- Proof of your child's relationship to their sponsoring parent (e.g. birth certificate, marriage certificate, family status certificate, adoption information);
- If your child is over 18 years old, you will need to prove they are financially dependent on you (e.g. by providing bank statements, money transfers etc.);
- If your child is over 18 years old, you will need to prove their circumstances. This means either providing proof that they study full-time or that they have a disability.

You must apply for all child visas on paper. To apply for an onshore or offshore Child Visa, you need to fill out a Form 47CH and a Form 40CH.

The Visa Application Charge (application fee) is \$3055 per child as of 1 July 2023. You must pay this at the time you apply as pre-paid paper application through the Department's ImmiAccount, and then post the receipt with your application to the following address:

Department of Home Affairs, Child and Other Family Processing Centre
Locked bag 7,
Northbridge WA 6865 Australia.

What happens after the application is lodged?

It will take some time to process the application and consider the evidence you have provided. Your child may be requested to attend a biometrics appointment and DNA testing to prove their identity and health checks. If your child is over 16 years old, they may be asked to provide a police check from any country they have lived in for more than 12 months since they turned 16 years of age. You, the sponsoring parent, may also be asked to provide an Australian police check.

If your child is in Australia when they applied for an onshore child (Subclass 802) visa, they should be granted a Bridging Visa to allow them to remain in Australia until a decision is made on the application.

If your child was outside Australia when they applied for their visa, they will need to wait to be granted that visa before they can enter Australia. They may be able to apply for a temporary visa such as a Visitor visa.

What happens if my child is granted a visa?

If your child is granted an onshore (subclass 802) or offshore (subclass 101) child visa, the child will become a permanent resident on the day the visa is granted or on the day they come to Australia, whichever is later. This means they can come to Australia and live indefinitely in Australia. They can become an Australian citizen when they are eligible. They will be allowed to study and access Medicare and other government benefits, subject to the Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period, which can be up to 4 years. Information about which services they can access and when, and exemptions to the waiting period can be found [here](#).

They will be allowed to work when they are legally old enough.

They will be able to travel outside of Australia for five years, after which they will need to get a new visa, called a Resident Return Visa.

You are generally responsible for supporting your child for their first 2 years in Australia.

What happens if the visa application is refused?

If your child's visa application is refused, you can apply for review of that decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). There are fees to apply and strict deadlines, so you should seek legal advice as soon as possible.

Getting help from RACS

If you are unable to afford a private migration agent, but require advice regarding your visa options, you may wish to contact RACS. RACS cannot advise on all your visa options but can make referrals where you require advice about other visa options.

RACS is entirely independent of the Department of Home Affairs. All assistance is free.

If you would like advice or assistance, RACS offers the following service options:

Service	Day	Time	Address/Number
Client Line	Monday to Friday	11AM to 1PM and 2PM to 4PM	(02) 8355 7227 or admin@racs.org.au
Auburn Outreach	Wednesday	10AM to 12PM	Auburn Centre for Community 44A Macquarie Road, Auburn

Please note: This fact sheet contains general information only. It does not constitute legal or migration advice. RACS is independent of the Department of Home Affairs. All assistance is free. This factsheet was prepared in October 2023.